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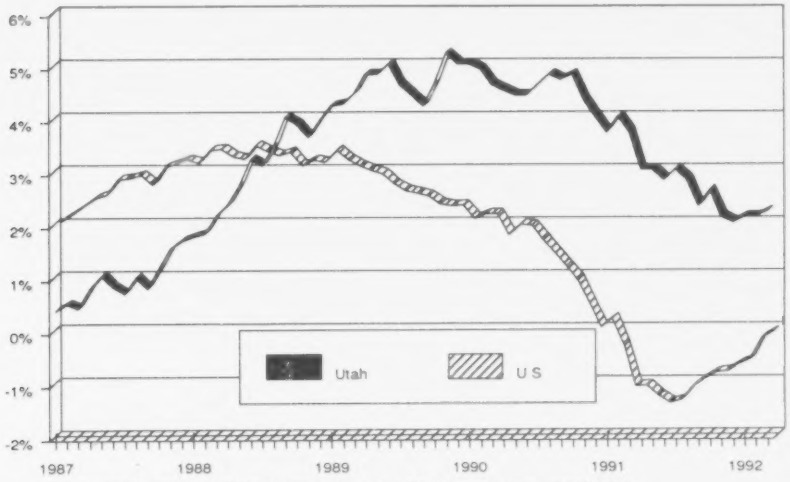
Utah Labor Market Report

March 1992
Volume 2, No. 3

Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

Another month of declining Utah unemployment—Is "this the place" for economic growth?

While Utah remains relatively strong in many areas, it still faces economic challenges in the months ahead.

Joblessness in the Beehive State dropped two-tenths of a percentage point in March to 4.5 percent. How low can it go? Probably not much lower. In fact, joblessness in the state will likely increase slightly in the short-run as laid off workers hit the unemployment lines.

With the national unemployment rate holding steady at 7.3 percent, the gap between the State and national figures widened to 2.8 percentage points in March. In other words, the State is much better off than most of the nation. In addition, the current 4.5 percent figure ranks as the lowest Utah unemployment rate since May 1991 and is only slightly higher than the March 1991 figure of 4.3 percent. Roughly 37,000 Utahns were out of work during March—2,800 more than during the same month last year.

While Utah did not dodge all the effects of the national downturn and has suffered job losses because of defense cutbacks, the State still averted its own recession—for the first time in recent memory. As many economic indicators provide evidence that a national recovery is well on its way, not only should Utah continue to avoid recession; but it should start generating stronger economic expansion in the months ahead. However, continued defense spending cuts provide a drag on job growth.

Utah continued to produce jobs in March. Nonfarm employment is up 2.3 percent from March 1991—an

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THE RATE

Mar 1992	Utah	4.5%	U.S.	7.3%
Feb 1992	Utah	4.7%	U.S.	7.3%
Mar 1991	Utah	4.3%	U.S.	6.7%

NONFARM JOBS *(% change from a year ago)*

Mar 1992	Utah	2.3%	U.S.	-0.2%

CPI-U *(Base Year 1982-84 = 100)*

Feb 1992	U.S.	138.6	Yr-over chng	2.8%

PPI *(Base Year 1982-84 = 100)*

Feb 1991	U.S.	116.1	Yr-over chng	-0.9%

increase of 16,600 jobs. Although most industries are managing a measure of economic health, mining and manufacturing employment is down compared to a year ago.

Manufacturing is suffering both from national recessionary pressures and cutbacks in defense spending. Since March 1991, manufacturing employment has dropped almost 3 percent (3,100 jobs). Electric machinery and supplies (which includes computer component manufacturing) and transportation equipment production (primarily the aerospace industry) have sustained the most serious economic blows. The good news in Utah's seemingly bleak manufacturing scene is that job losses appear to be shrinking. Plus, a few manufacturing sectors are actually adding new jobs, and others are maintaining.

Mining employment dropped by 100 jobs—a 1.2 percent decrease. Heavy coal mining losses have been offset by moderate increases in metal mining and oil/gas extraction.

In March, the finance/insurance/real estate industry pushed construction out of the top employment-growth spot. The influx of financial phone service centers into Utah has helped push growth in this industry to 6 percent—a gain of 2,100 net new jobs.

Employment growth in the construction industry has tapered off somewhat but remains strong. Since March 1991, the State gained 1,200 new construction jobs for a growth rate of 4.5 percent.

Services produced 6,900 new Utah jobs—the highest number of any m ajor industrial classification. Computer services (including software companies), medical/health services, and engineering management services are all producing jobs at a 6 percent or higher rate.

Replacement of lost airline reservation center jobs pushed transportation/communications/utilities industry out of the economic doldrums. Over the past 12 months, this industry has added 1,300 new jobs for a growth rate of over 3 percent.

Trade also made a moderate showing, adding 5,400 jobs over the past year for a growth rate of over 3 percent.

Defense cutbacks continued to impact employment in the government sector. Since March of 1991, federal defense employment has dropped by 7 percent. However, state and local governments continued to add employment .

Even with the economic difficulties the State faces, Utah should still outpace national growth in the months ahead.❐

Lecia Parks Langston
Chief Economist

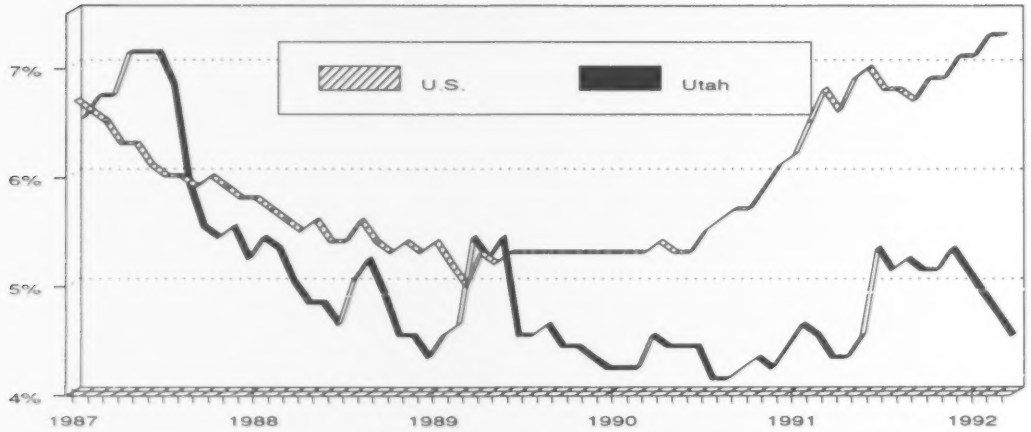
■ ***Only manufacturing and mining showed net job losses.***

■ ***Utah's unemployment rate dropped for the fourth straight month.***

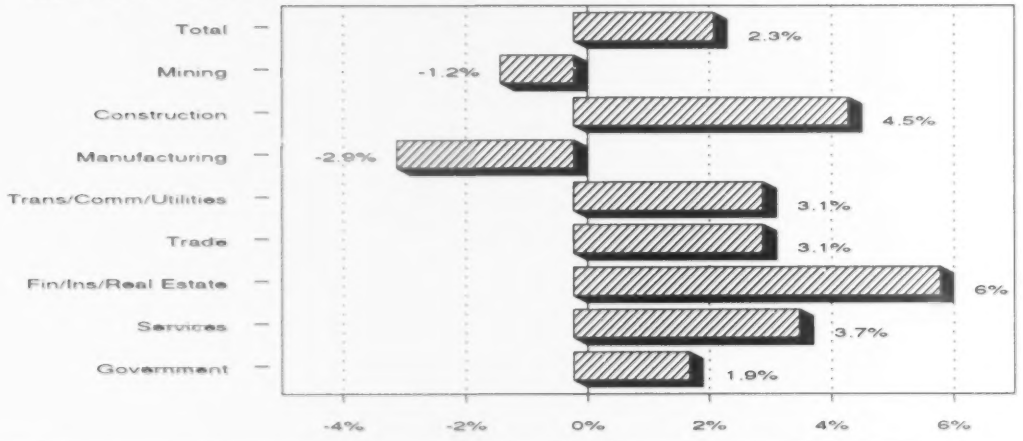
■ ***At 4.5 percent, Utah joblessness stands 2.8 points below the national average.***

■ ***Job growth in Utah has slowed considerably but remains positive with 2.3 percent year-over gain.***

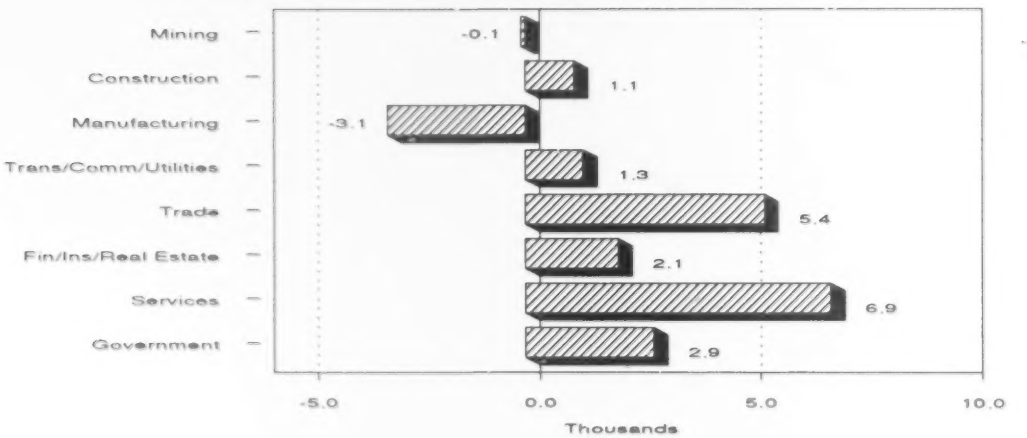
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



March 1991-92 Percent Growth in Nonfarm Jobs



March 1991-92 Nonfarm Job Growth



Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

RAW

Table 1. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs, Not Seasonally Adjusted *(Numbers in Thousands)*

	Mar 1992(f)	Mar 1991	Percent Change	Feb 1992(p)	Jan 1992(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	**807.3**	**791.6**	**2.0**	**804.0**	**801.0**
Employed	**766.5**	**753.7**	**1.7**	**763.0**	**760.0**
Unemployed	**40.9**	**37.8**	**8.2**	**41.0**	**41.0**
Percent of Labor Force	5.1	4.8	—	5.1	5.1
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	**751.5**	**734.9**	**2.3**	**745.7**	**741.0**
Mining	**8.5**	**8.6**	**-1.2**	**8.5**	**8.4**
Metal Mining	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.0
Bituminous Coal Mining	2.2	2.5	-12.0	2.2	2.1
Oil/Gas Extraction & Quarrying*	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3
Contract Construction	**28.1**	**26.9**	**4.5**	**17.0**	**27.0**
Manufacturing	**104.1**	**107.2**	**-2.9**	**103.6**	**103.2**
Durable Goods	69.2	71.3	-2.9	68.7	68.4
Primary Metals	*5.9*	*5.9*	*0.0*	*5.9*	*5.9*
Fabricated Metals, Machinery, & Computers	*14.2*	*14.4*	*-1.4*	*14.1*	*14.0*
Electrical/Electric Equipment (ex. Computers)	*9.4*	*11.6*	*-19.0*	*9.4*	*9.3*
Transportation Equipment	*16.4*	*17.5*	*-6.3*	*16.3*	*16.3*
*Lumber/Furniture,Stone/Clay/Glass**	*10.1*	*9.7*	*4.1*	*9.9*	*9.9*
*Other Durable Goods**	*13.2*	*12.2*	*8.2*	*13.1*	*13.0*
Nondurable Goods	34.9	35.9	-2.8	34.9	34.8
Food & Related Products	*11.5*	*11.5*	*0.0*	*11.3*	*11.3*
*Other Nondurable Goods**	*23.4*	*24.4*	*-4.1*	*23.6*	*23.5*
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	**42.8**	**41.5**	**3.1**	**42.8**	**42.4**
Railroad Transportation	2.5	2.5	0.0	2.5	2.5
Trucking & Warehousing	15.3	15.0	2.0	15.2	15.1
Transportation by Air*	7.1	6.5	9.2	7.1	7.0
Other Transportation & Related Services*	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.3	3.2
Communications	6.9	6.5	6.2	7.0	7.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	7.6	7.6	0.0	7.7	7.6
Trade	**177.9**	**172.5**	**3.1**	**176.6**	**177.6**
Wholesale Trade	41.2	39.3	4.8	41.0	40.8
*Durable Goods**	*24.1*	*22.8*	*5.7*	*24.1*	*23.9*
*Nondurable Goods**	*17.1*	*16.5*	*3.6*	*16.9*	*16.9*
Retail Trade	136.7	133.2	2.6	135.6	136.8
Food Stores	*24.3*	*23.7*	*2.5*	*14.2*	*24.1*
Auto Dealers/Parts Stores, & Gas Stations	*15.0*	*15.3*	*-2.0*	*14.8*	*14.8*
Eating & Drinking Places	*44.7*	*43.4*	*3.0*	*43.9*	*43.3*
*Home Furniture/Equipment & Clothing Stores**	*12.9*	*11.9*	*8.4*	*12.9*	*13.3*
*Gen. Merchandise/Building & Garden Supply**	*22.4*	*21.7*	*3.2*	*22.3*	*23.5*
Miscellaneous Retail	*17.4*	*17.2*	*1.2*	*17.5*	*17.8*
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	**37.3**	**35.2**	**6.0**	**37.0**	**36.9**
Depository Institutions*	13.5	13.1	3.1	13.4	13.4
Other Finance/Insurance/Real Estate*	23.8	22.1	7.7	23.6	23.5
Services	194.5	187.6	3.7	192.0	189.5
Hotels & Lodging Places	13.3	13.1	1.5	12.9	12.7
Personal, Amusement & Recreational*	18.9	18.3	3.3	18.8	18.5
Computer-Related*	9.7	9.0	7.8	9.6	9.6
Other Business Services*	31.8	31.2	1.9	30.9	30.5
Auto Repair/Rental/Parking*	6.5	6.5	0.0	6.5	6.5
Health	50.0	47.1	6.2	49.8	49.2
Education/Social & Membership Organizations*	38.5	38.0	1.3	38.3	37.6
Legal & Miscellaneous Services	5.4	5.1	5.9	5.4	5.4
Engineering, Accounting, & Related*	15.5	14.5	6.9	15.3	15.0
Other Repair/Ag. Services & Museums, etc.*	4.9	4.8	2.1	4.5	4.5
Government	**158.3**	**155.4**	**1.9**	**158.2**	**156.0**
Federal Government	38.1	39.2	-2.8	37.9	37.7
*U.S. Defense**	*18.4*	*19.8*	*-7.1*	*18.5*	*18.6*
*Other Federal**	*19.7*	*19.4*	*1.5*	*19.4*	*19.1*
State Government	45.6	43.9	3.9	46.3	45.6
*State Education**	*25.3*	*24.3*	*4.1*	*26.0*	*25.4*
*Other State**	*20.3*	*19.6*	*3.6*	*20.3*	*20.2*
Local Government	74.6	72.3	3.2	74.0	72.7
Local Education	*48.1*	*46.9*	*2.6*	*47.7*	*46.7*
*Other Local**	*26.5*	*25.4*	*4.3*	*26.3*	*26.0*

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). NOTE: Forecast data and cells marked by an asterisk (*) are not sanctioned by BLS. Some figures are not strictly comparable due to reclassification.

ADJUSTED

Table 2. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs Seasonally Adjusted *(Numbers in Thousands)*

	Mar 1992(f)	Mar 1991	Percent Change	Feb 1992(p)	Jan 1992(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	**818.3**	**802.2**	**2.0**	**818.0**	**816.0**
Employed	**781.3**	**768.0**	**1.7**	**779.4**	**776.0**
Unemployed	**37.0**	**34.2**	**8.2**	**38.6**	**40.0**
Percent of Labor Force	4.5	4.3	--	4.7	4.9
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	**756.2**	**739.5**	**2.3**	**755.5**	**751.0**
Mining	**8.4**	**8.5**	**-1.2**	**8.4**	**8.2**
Contract Construction	**31.9**	**30.6**	**4.5**	**32.3**	**31.8**
Manufacturing	**105.0**	**108.2**	**-2.9**	**105.1**	**105.0**
Durable Goods	69.8	71.9	-2.9	69.7	69.3
Nondurable Goods	35.3	36.3	-2.8	35.4	35.6
Trans., Comm., Public Utilities	**43.2**	**41.9**	**3.1**	**43.3**	**43.1**
Trade	**181.6**	**176.1**	**3.1**	**181.4**	**180.2**
Wholesale	41.5	39.6	4.8	41.6	41.4
Retail	140.1	136.5	2.6	139.8	138.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**37.3**	**35.2**	**6.0**	**37.2**	**37.2**
Services	**193.3**	**186.4**	**3.7**	**191.7**	**190.0**
Government	**155.5**	**152.7**	**1.8**	**156.2**	**155.6**
Federal Government	38.1	39.2	-2.8	38.2	38.2
State Government	44.1	42.5	3.9	44.7	44.8
Local Government	73.3	71.0	3.2	73.2	72.7

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Table 3. Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Utah

	Average Hourly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours			
	Feb 1992(p)	Feb 1991	% Chng	Jan 1992(r)	Feb 1992(p)	Feb 1991	% Chng	Jan 1992(r)
MINING	**$15.13**	**$14.84**	**2.0**	**$15.23**	**43.5**	**44.2**	**-1.6**	**42.5**
Metal Mining	14.10	13.63	3.4	13.77	44.1	42.0	5.0	47.7
Bituminous Coal Mining	18.29	17.60	3.9	18.55	46.5	48.2	-3.5	41.1
MANUFACTURING	**11.27**	**10.47**	**7.6**	**11.23**	**40.4**	**39.4**	**2.5**	**39.8**
Durable Goods	11.27	10.77	4.6	11.23	40.3	39.6	1.8	40.3
Primary Metals	14.03	13.08	7.3	14.41	42.2	40.2	5.0	43.3
Fabricated Metal Prod. and Mach.	10.74	10.32	4.1	10.67	39.7	39.8	-0.2	39.4
Transportation Equipment	14.39	13.45	7.0	14.37	42.0	41.8	0.5	41.4
Nondurable Goods	10.79	9.88	9.2	10.48	40.6	38.9	4.4	38.9
Food and Kindred Products	9.84	8.85	11.1	9.56	40.0	40.0	0.0	38.7
TRADE	**8.01**	**7.65**	**4.7**	**8.05**	**28.6**	**28.0**	**2.1**	**27.9**
Wholesale	10.24	10.01	2.3	10.27	35.7	38.0	-6.1	34.4
Retail	7.19	6.69	7.5	7.26	26.7	25.3	5.5	26.2
Food Stores	7.62	6.37	19.6	7.61	25.5	24.8	7.1	25.2
General Merchandise	6.35	6.23	1.9	6.21	26.3	25.5	7.3	27.2

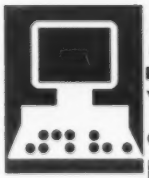
Note: Average hours include hours actually worked or remunerated. Average hourly earnings include incentive and premium pay. Data may be affected by labor disputes.

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Economic Events

Please note: Information contained in Economic Events is obtained from regional newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, clipping services, and local area Chamber of Commerce publications.

- Hercules Inc. announced that it will proceed with a new round of layoffs at its Magna and Clearfield facilities. The layoffs will affect approximately 400 workers—half of which will take voluntary leave. The cutbacks were unexpected and resulted from the Air Force termination of two development contracts on the canceled Small ICBM.
- Kennecott Corporation announced that it will invest $880 million in a new state-of-the-art smelter at its Bingham Canyon operation. The project, which is expected to take three years to complete, will create an environmentally clean smelting operation—one which environmentalists are applauding The new smelter will help keep Kennecott as one of the lowest-cost major copper producers in the world. The construction phase will be one of the largest projects in the country, and it is expected to create 3,300 temporary jobs. The new smelter is not expected to increase the number of permanent jobs at the site.
- Nutek Corporation, a California-based sterilization company, announced that it will move into Utah with a large manufacturing plant and a projected 200-employee work force. The firm, which will locate in the Salt Lake area uses radiation technology to sterilize medical products, foods, and waste products, among others. The company has additional plans to manufacture the sterilization equipment and sell it to users who need sterilization equipment on site. Utah was chosen due to its geographic location, work ethic, and trained work force.
- Thiokol announced in March that it is merging its two operating divisions in Utah. The smaller Tactical Division, based in Brigham City, will merge with the large Strategic Division, headquartered at Promontory. The merger was induced by a slowing in the company's business base, as the end of the Cold War is prompting defense budget cuts and is affecting Thiokol's operations. The merger, and subsequent down-sizing, will result in further layoffs.❐



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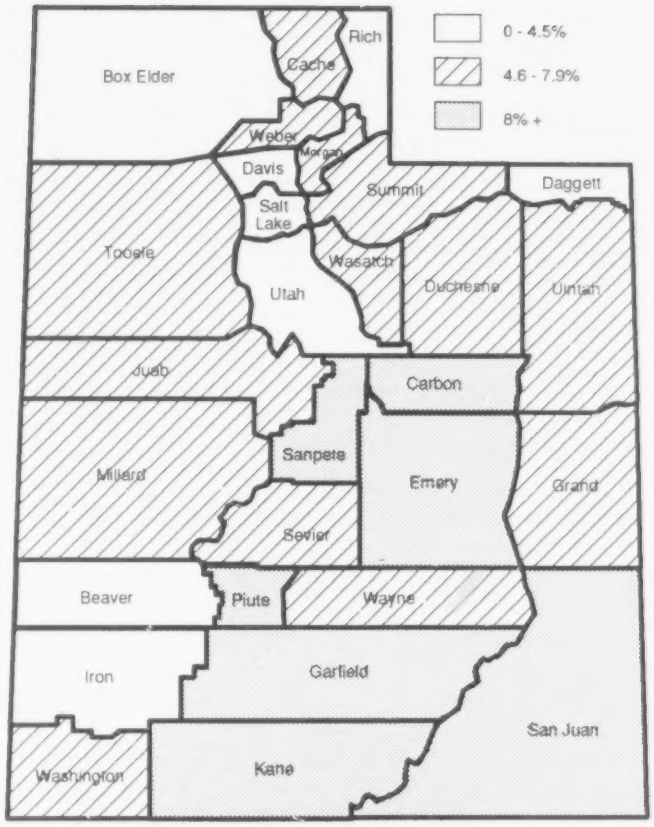
U.S. recession and defense cutback slow metro areas

Economic growth in Utah has slowed considerably in response to the national recession and defense-spending cutbacks—particularly in the metropolitan counties; however, their unemployment rates remain relatively low. In a rather unusual turn, many of Utah's nonmetropolitan counties are still enjoying fairly rapid job growth and low unemployment rates.

For example, spurred by tourism-related industries, Grand County's March 1991-to-March 1992 job growth equals 12 percent—double that of the next-highest county. The county's unemployment rate has also fallen rapidly in the past two months.

Other nonmetropolitan counties, Cache, Morgan, Summit, Duchesne, Millard, Iron, and Washington, are also enjoying economic "good times." Year-over nonfarm job growth rates *and* unemployment rates all range from 4.5 to 6.5 percent. These areas lack dependence on depressed national markets. Iron County, in particular, is enjoying a modest "boom."

Of course, several other counties face economic difficulties—some of them chronic. Due to logging industry job losses, Garfield County stands out with an unemployment rate of 20 percent—nearly double that of the next-highest county. Moreover, Garfield's year-over job loss is the highest in the state.



Unemployment Rates March 1992

Because of coal mining layoffs, Carbon and Emery counties, exhibit 10 percent unemployment with roughly 5 percent fewer jobs than a year ago. Another large layoff in March means Carbon County's unemployment rate should go even higher in April and May. San Juan, Sanpete, Kane, and Piute counties also have unemployment rates near 10 percent.

Continued on page 8

■ ***Many nonmetro counties are still seeing strong job growth and low unemployment rates.***

■ ***Due to logging industry job losses, Garfield County stands out with an unemployment rate of 20 percent—nearly double that of the next-highest county.***

■ ***Grand County's March 1991-to-March 1992 job growth equals 12 percent—double that of the next-highest county.***

Continued from page 7

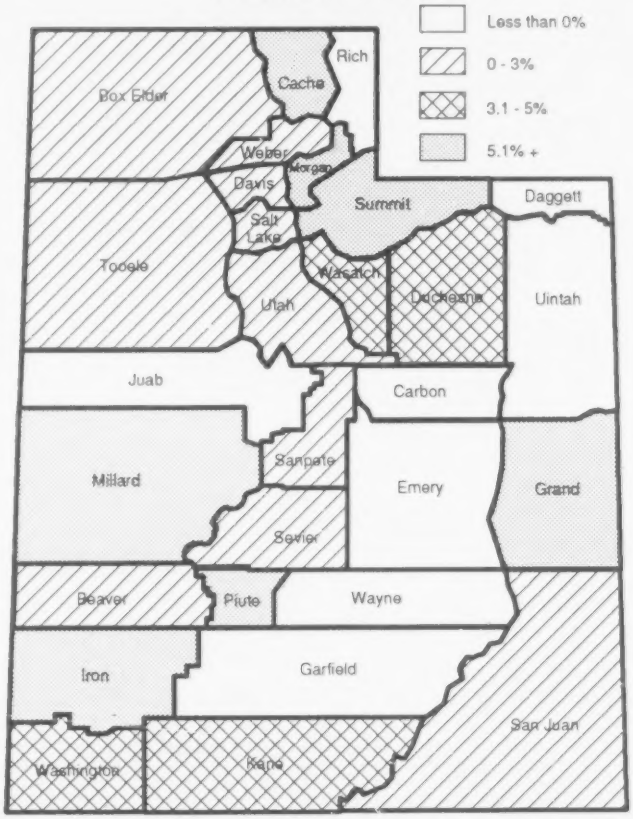
Most of the remaining non-metro counties (Uintah, Juab, Wayne, and Wasatch) all face a degree of perpetual economic stagnation. They have relatively high (for Utah) unemployment and few, if any, new jobs.

Defense funding cut-backs are affecting employment in Box Elder, Davis, and Tooele counties. Their unemployment rates are low now, but may be increasing this spring, and their job growth is minimal.

Recessionary and defense slowdowns are affecting Weber and, to a lesser extent, Salt Lake and Utah counties. Nevertheless, unemployment remains relatively low throughout metropolitan Utah.

Kenneth E. Jensen
Labor Market Economist

Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs March1992



METRO AREAS

Table 4. Civilian Labor Force and Nonfarm Jobs for SaltLake/Ogden and Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Areas *(Numbers In Thousands)*

	Salt Lake/Ogden					Provo/Orem				
	Mar 1992(f)	Mar 1991	Percent Change	Feb 1992(p)	Jan 1992(r)	Mar 1992(f)	Mar 1991	Percent Change	Feb 1992(p)	Jan 1992(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	**519.0**	**510.3**	1.7	**518.9**	**516.6**	**120.6**	**119.5**	0.9	**121.7**	**120.4**
Employed	494.8	487.6	1.5	494.2	492.1	115.6	114.3	1.1	116.1	114.7
Unemployed	24.2	22.7	6.6	24.7	24.5	5.0	5.2	-3.8	5.6	5.7
Rate	4.7	4.4	—	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.3	—	4.6	4.7
TOTAL NONFARM JOBS	**509.4**	**499.2**	**2.0**	**505.1**	**501.6**	100.7	**98.2**	**2.7**	**100.5**	**99.5**
Mining	3.2	2.9	10.3	3.1	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Construction	19.1	18.6	2.7	18.3	18.3	3.9	3.5	11.4	3.8	3.9
Manufacturing	67.0	69.6	-3.7	66.5	65.9	13.9	14.2	-2.1	13.8	13.7
Durable	45.8	48.3	-5.2	45.3	44.8	8.9	8.8	1.1	8.8	8.7
Nondurable	21.2	21.3	-0.5	21.2	21.1	5.0	5.4	-7.4	5.0	5.0
Trans/Comm/Utilities	33.6	32.0	5.0	33.5	33.2	2.3	2.5	-8.0	2.3	2.2
Trade	124.1	121.0	2.6	123.5	124.4	23.2	22.2	4.5	23.0	23.0
Wholesale	32.9	31.3	5.1	32.8	32.7	5.1	4.8	6.3	5.0	5.0
Retail	91.2	89.7	1.7	90.7	91.7	18.1	17.4	4.0	18.0	18.0
Fin/Ins/Real Estate	30.8	28.8	6.9	30.5	30.4	2.4	2.3	4.3	2.4	2.4
Service	129.4	125.2	3.4	127.4	125.7	39.3	38.0	3.4	39.3	38.7
Government	102.2	101.1	1.1	102.3	100.7	15.8	15.4	2.6	15.8	15.5

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

By County

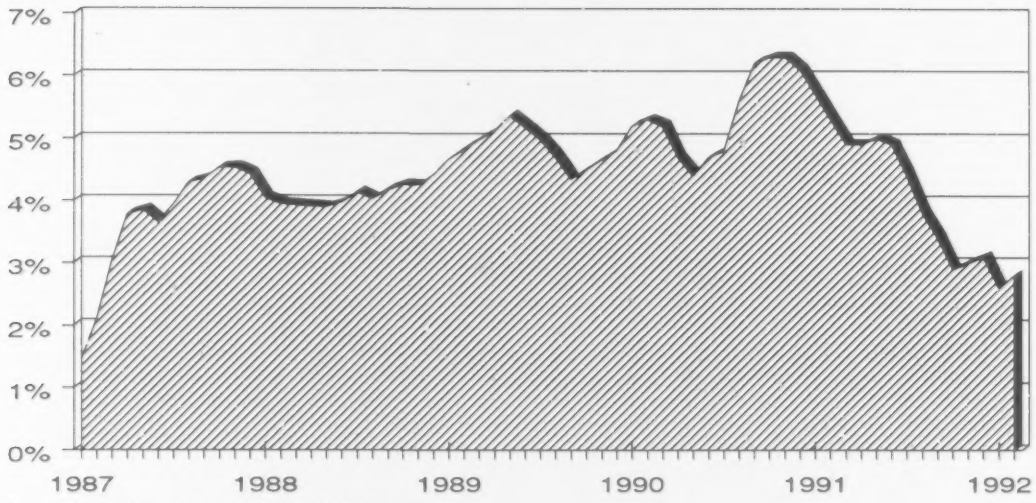
Table 4. Unemployment Rates and Nonfarm Jobs in Utah by County

	Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate				Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs				
	Mar 1992(f)	Feb 1992(p)	Jan 1992(r)	Mar 1991	Mar 1992(f)	Mar 1991	Percent Change	Feb 1992(p)	Feb 1991(r)
STATE TOTAL	**4.5**	**4.7**	**4.9**	**4.3**	**751,500**	**734,900**	**2.3**	**745,700**	**729,270**
Bear River	**4.4**	**4.1**	**4.8**	**3.2**	**46,330**	**44,660**	**3.7**	**45,970**	**44,330**
Box Elder	4.3	4.5	4.9	3.4	15,050	14,970	0.5	14,980	14,850
Cache	4.5	4.0	4.7	3.2	30,940	29,340	5.5	30,650	29,130
Rich	1.6	2.7	4.1	3.3	340	350	-2.9	340	350
Wasatch Front	**4.1**	**4.3**	**4.7**	**3.8**	**520,400**	**510,070**	**2.0**	**516,260**	**506,250**
Wasatch Front North	**4.6**	**4.4**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**126,970**	**126,190**	**0.6**	**126,140**	**125,120**
Davis	4.1	3.9	4.3	4.0	58,070	58,050	0.0	57,740	57,600
Morgan	5.2	5.3	5.7	5.8	1,080	1,010	6.9	1,050	1,000
Weber	5.2	5.1	5.6	4.9	67,820	67,130	1.0	67,350	66,520
Wasatch Front South	**3.9**	**4.3**	**4.6**	**3.5**	**393,430**	**383,880**	**2.5**	**390,120**	**381,130**
Salt Lake	3.8	4.2	4.5	3.5	383,320	373,810	2.5	379,970	370,990
Tooele	4.7	5.2	5.9	4.0	10,110	10,070	0.4	10,150	10,140
Mountainland	**3.9**	**4.1**	**4.7**	**3.9**	**113,610**	**110,300**	**3.0**	**113,360**	**109,750**
Summit	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.0	10,460	9,810	6.6	10,500	10,050
Utah	3.6	3.9	4.5	3.8	100,730	98,160	2.6	100,480	97,380
Wasatch	7.7	7.8	8.3	6.6	2,240	2,330	3.9	2,380	2,320
Central	**6.6**	**6.5**	**7.1**	**7.1**	**14,990**	**14,800**	**1.3**	**14,920**	**14,830**
Juab	6.8	7.1	8.9	4.8	1,910	1,940	-1.5	1,910	1,920
Millard	5.2	4.6	5.2	4.7	3,350	3,190	5.0	3,330	3,170
Piute	10.7	9.6	11.8	16.8	200	190	5.3	200	190
Sanpete	8.8	8.3	8.3	10.5	4,220	4,180	1.0	4,170	4,210
Sevier	5.0	5.7	6.3	5.5	4,850	4,830	0.4	4,850	4,870
Wayne	7.1	7.2	7.7	7.9	460	470	-2.1	460	470
Southwestern	**5.8**	**5.4**	**5.7**	**5.1**	**28,560**	**27,450**	**4.0**	**28,040**	**26,880**
Beaver	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.9	1,370	1,370	0.0	1,360	1,340
Garfield	19.9	19.0	18.6	8.8	1,110	1,210	-8.3	1,050	1,150
Iron	4.3	4.1	4.8	5.1	8,460	7,940	6.5	8,340	7,830
Kane	9.3	8.2	8.0	8.5	1,370	1,320	3.8	1,300	1,260
Washington	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.5	16,250	15,610	4.1	15,990	15,300
Uintah Basin	**6.5**	**6.0**	**7.1**	**4.6**	**10,890**	**10,810**	**0.7**	**10,920**	**10,720**
Daggett	4.1	3.4	3.7	1.9	250	290	-13.8	150	270
Duchesne	6.5	6.0	7.7	4.8	3,890	3,760	3.5	3,920	3,710
Uintah	6.6	6.1	6.8	4.7	6,750	6,760	-0.1	6,750	6,740
Southeastern	**8.9**	**8.3**	**8.9**	**7.2**	**16,750**	**16,840**	**-0.5**	**16,250**	**16,500**
Carbon	9.7	8.1	8.6	6.1	7,520	7,750	-3.0	7,430	7,740
Emery	9.7	9.3	10.1	8.8	3,310	3,470	-4.6	3,270	3,480
Grand	6.6	7.5	8.6	5.7	2,610	2,350	11.1	2,340	2,090
San Juan	8.7	8.7	8.9	9.1	3,310	3,270	1.2	3,210	3,190
Salt Lake/Ogden MSA	**4.1**	**4.3**	**4.7**	**3.8**	**509,210**	**498,990**	**2.0**	**505,060**	**495,110**
Provo/Orem MSA	**3.6**	**3.9**	**4.5**	**3.8**	**100,730**	**98,160**	**2.6**	**100,480**	**97,380**

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates should not be used for federal or state funding applications.

Year-over Percent Increase in U.S. Consumer Price Index



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

PRICES

Table 6. Current U.S. Price Indexes

	INDEX		% CHANGE FROM	
	Feb 1992	Feb 1991	Prior Year	Prior Month
CONSUMER PRICES (1982-84=100)				
ALL ITEMS (CPI-U[1])	**138.6**	**134.8**	**2.8**	**0.4**
Food and Beverages	138.1	136.0	1.5	0.1
Food at Home	136.6	135.7	0.7	0.1
Housing	136.1	132.4	2.8	0.3
Rent Residential	145.6	141.5	2.9	0.1
Fuel and Other Utilities	115.9	114.7	1.0	-0.3
Medical Care	186.2	172.5	7.9	1.0
Apparel and Upkeep	130.2	126.2	3.2	1.8
Transportation	124.1	123.7	0.3	-0.3
Gasoline	92.7	99.3	-6.6	-1.7
Energy[3]	99.0	102.8	-3.7	-1.1
PURCHASING POWER OF CONSUMER DOLLAR: (1982-84 = $1.00)	**$0.722**	**$0.742**	**-2.7**	**-0.3**
ALL ITEMS (CPI-W[2])	**136.4**	**132.8**	**2.7**	**0.3**
PRODUCER PRICES (1982 = 100)				
ALL COMMODITIES	**116.1**	**117.2**	**-0.9**	**0.4**
Finished Goods	121.9	121.4	0.4	0.2
Intermediate Materials	113.6	115.5	-1.6	0.4
Crude Materials	99.0	104.1	4.9	1.7

1 Consumer Price Index—All Urban Consumers.

2 Consumer Price Index—Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

3 Energy is a special group index consisting of prices paid for the following: fuel oil, coal, bottled gas, electricity, gasoline, and motor oil and coolant. It is not one of the components of the "All Items" as its sub-components are already included.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statisitcs.

Did Utah Really Do Better This Time?

In the April 3, 1992 issue of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco *Weekly Letter*, economist Brian A. Cromwell points out what Utahns (and others around the country) already know—that Utah has bucked the national recession. However, Cromwell's report and research point out some interesting points about Utah's performance during the recent national recession.

Using the statistical methodology known as vector autoregression, Cromwell examined the linkage between Utah and the nation. Cromwell indicates:

- *Roughly 45 percent of the historical fluctuations in the Utah economy are attributable to national shocks—about average for the 50 states.*
- *Utah's economy did do better than his historical model would predict.*
- *Utah manufacturing exhibits a moderate degree of linkage with national economic fluctuations (about 16 percent), but responds more sharply than other sectors to an economic shock.*
- *Utah's better than predicted growth appears to be related to the performance of the nonmanufacturing sector, although manufacturing did perform better than expected for most of the forecast period.*
- *Utah's service and financial sectors have performed well in Utah because developments specific to the State have increased their comparative advantage. For example, immigration of firms seeking lower costs, affordable housing, and a pro-business regulatory environment.*
- *Expanding population also supported construction and real estate while Utah avoided much of the overbuilding that occurred in the late 80s in other regions.*

New Data, New Publications

The following data and/or publications are now available:

- ☐ ***Selected Demographic, Labor Market, & Economic Characteristics for Washington County and St. George, March 1992***
- ☐ ***Selected Demographic, Labor Market, & Economic Characteristics for Iron County and Cedar City, March 1992***

If you would like to receive copies, please check the desired items and fill in your name and address.

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Mail to: Labor Market Information Services, Utah Department of Employment Security, P.O. Box 11249, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147-0249.

Washington County Demographics

Washington County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State. What does the data actually reveal? Here's some highlights—

- The median age of the Washington County population increased from 24.8 in 1980 to 28.4 in 1990. Part of this age increase is due to an influx of "retirement age" people into the area. The largest percentage increase from any age group came in the 65 and over category. This segment of the population increased 127 percent between 1980 and 1990 compared to a total population increase of 86 percent.
- From the period 1980 to 1990, 74 percent of the total population increase in Washington County came from net in-migration.
- In 1991, Washington County's unemployment rate (5.1 percent) rose above the State average (4.9 percent) although it remained substantially below the U.S. average of 6.7 percent.
- In-migration coupled with somewhat slower job growth may have meant that Washington County could not absorb all the new workers coming into the County pushing the unemployment rate up slightly.
- Of all the counties in the State with nonfarm employment over 1,500 jobs, Washington County, had by far the highest job growth rate. However, its 1991 growth rate (8.8 percent) is lower than the double-digit rates experienced in the prior two years.
- Approximately six out of every ten new jobs created last year were in trade and services.
- From the third quarter of 1990 to the third quarter of 1991, health services created the most new jobs in Washington County. These jobs came in an industry where the average monthly wage is nearly 27 percent higher than the county's average monthly wage.
- The largest employer in the county is the Washington County School District, in terms of both numbers employed and payroll.
- Roughly half of the businesses in the county employ between one and four employees, but this group employs only 9 percent of the total nonagricultural work force.
- Between 1984 and 1989, Washington County's personal income rose 80 percent, the largest county increase. Statewide, personal income increased 36 percent.
- However, per capita income during the same period rose 26 percent, while the State's per capita income rose 30 percent. While Washington County's personal income grew rapidly, so did its population.
- While the County's per capita personal income may be lower than the State's, county residents may have as much, or more, disposable income. As mentioned, Washington County has a larger share of retirement-age population. While retired individuals may have lower incomes, their disposable incomes could be higher as they generally have more assets and fewer bills and social overhead.
- Wages account for only 58 percent of personal income in Washington County compared to 75 percent for the State.
- Washington County's average annual pay is only 75.1 percent of the State average annual pay.
- Inflation has generally outpaced wage increases in Washington County and the State.
- The cost of living in Washington County has also increased from below the U.S. city average to equal the U.S. city average.❐

Mark Knold
Labor Market Economist

Iron County Demographics

The economic progress of Iron County is often lost in comparison to its flashy neighbor to the south. Yet, the county shows strong growth.

- Total 1990 population in Iron County equaled 20,789, a 19.8 percent increase above the 1980 Census figure.
- All age groups increased their population count in the County except for those under age five.
- The "65 and over" group now constitutes 9.5 percent of the Iron County population, while it was only 7.4 percent of the 1980 population.
- From the period 1980 to 1990, all of the population gain came from natural increase (more births than deaths). Roughly 100 more people left the county than entered over that time frame.
- Iron County's unemployment rate registered 4.8 percent—slightly lower than the State average of 4.9 percent and significantly lower than the U.S. average of 6.7 percent.
- In 1991, Iron County jobs increased by 4.2 percent (320 jobs)—higher than the State average increase of 3.0 percent.
- Government, trade, and services showed the strongest job gains while transportation/communications/utilities and mining lost employment.
- Government accounts for 32 percent of Iron County employment largely because of public education. Trade is the second largest industry in the County.
- The largest employer in Iron County is Southern Utah State University.
- Roughly 50 percent of Iron County's businesses employ between one and four employees, but they represent less than 9 percent of the total nonagricultural work force.
- Total personal income in Iron County increased 12 percent between 1988 and 1989 compared to a statewide increase of only 8 percent.
- Iron County's per capita personal income also showed a strong increase—10 percent compared to 7 percent statewide. However, Iron County still lags the State in the actual level of per capita income.
- Wages account for 65 percent of total income in Iron County compared to 75 percent statewide.
- Preliminary estimates of Iron County's average annual pay, in 1991, was almost 73 percent of the State average—down significantly from 1990's 78 percent of the State total.
- The average monthly wage in Iron County dropped from $1,281 in 1990 to $1,244 in 1991—a 3 percent decline.
- The loss of 168 jobs in the highest paying industrial sectors may be the major factor for lower average wages in 1991.
- When Iron County wages are adjusted for inflation (using the U.S. Consumer Price Index), the average wage in 1981 equaled $978, while the 1991 average wage was only $830.
- The ACCRA cost of living index indicates that it is significantly less expensive to live in Cedar City than in the average U.S. city. Where the average U.S. city has an index of 100, Cedar City has a cost of living index of 89 in the third quarter of 1991.❐

Note: Full demographic profiles for both Iron and Washington counties are available—see the order form on page 11.

Mark Knold
Labor Market Economist

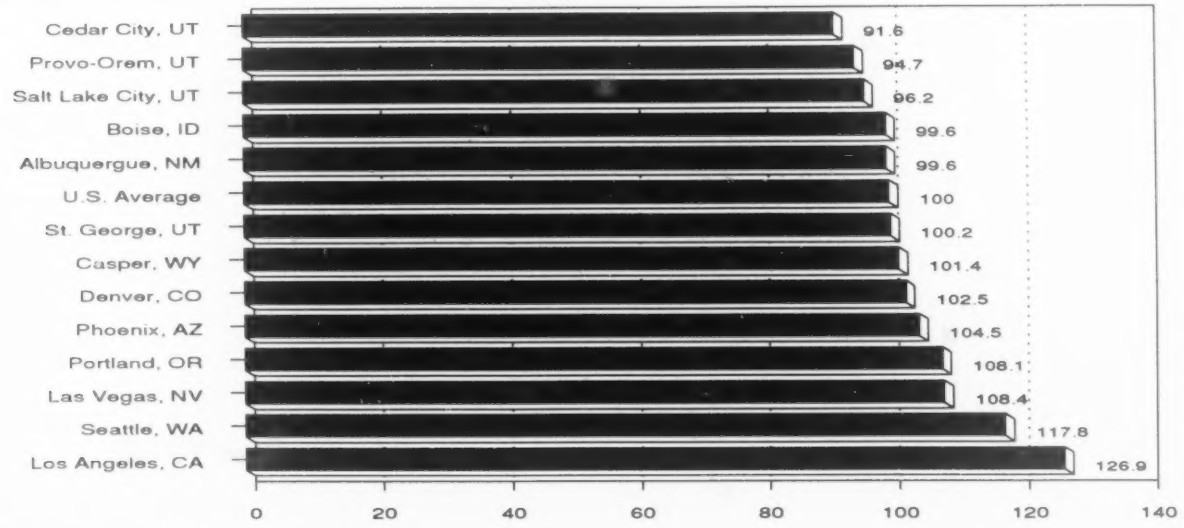
ACCRA Composite Cost-of-Living Comparisons for Selected Metropolitan Areas—FOURTH QUARTER 1991

Component Weights:	100% All Items	13% Groceries	28% Housing	9% Utilities	10% Transption	5% Hlth Care	35% Misc
U.S. Average	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Salt Lake City UT	96.2	102.2	83.4	93.1	103.6	96.4	100.0
Cedar City UT (Nonmetro)	91.6	106.1	79.4	84.9	96.1	87.4	93.8
Provo-Orem UT	94.7	97.7	87.8	87.1	104.6	98.5	95.8
St George UT (Nonmetro)	100.2	99.8	104.4	82.7	102.3	100.6	102.6
Western States							
Phoenix AZ	104.5	98.9	119.0	101.1	105.6	112.0	96.0
Los Angeles CA	126.9	106.7	194.6	86.9	114.3	134.9	106.9
Denver CO	102.5	96.2	105.9	97.6	107.7	118.2	99.4
Boise ID	99.6	95.3	110.3	76.8	93.6	108.2	103.2
Las Vegas NV	108.4	98.8	116.3	84.1	111.8	123.9	112.0
Albuquerque NM	99.6	94.0	100.7	97.8	98.3	106.1	101.8
Portland OR	108.1	101.2	132.5	72.3	108.0	125.9	103.3
Seattle WA	117.8	110.9	155.0	62.9	111.7	132.8	113.8
Casper WY	101.4	102.6	107.1	95.2	92.0	103.2	102.4
Other Areas							
Anchorage AK	133.3	130.9	152.7	104.9	106.8	187.3	129.6
Atlanta GA	100.4	98.3	99.4	114.4	98.7	121.8	93.1
Kansas City MO	96.3	93.8	97.8	90.3	97.8	102.1	96.9
New York NY	220.3	141.3	445.6	200.6	123.8	214.7	150.3
Houston TX	103.9	105.1	91.4	102.7	122.6	104.4	104.5
***Highest City**	Framingham-Natcik MA	Philadelphia PA	LA-Long Beach CA	Philadelphia PA	Framingham MA	Bellingham WA	Palm Springs CA
	134.0	119.8	194.6	192.5	131.9	144.9	117.3
***Lowest City**	Pueblo CO	Omaha NE	Ft. Smith AR	Tacoma WA	Albany GA	Fayetteville AR	Killeen-Harker TX
	85.5	89.6	72.6	60.1	84.9	73.1	87.0

*Does not include cities in Alaska or New York.
Source: American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association.

ACCRA Cost-of-Living Comparisons for Selected Western Cities

Fourth Quarter 1991



Source: American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association.

Union Membership 1991

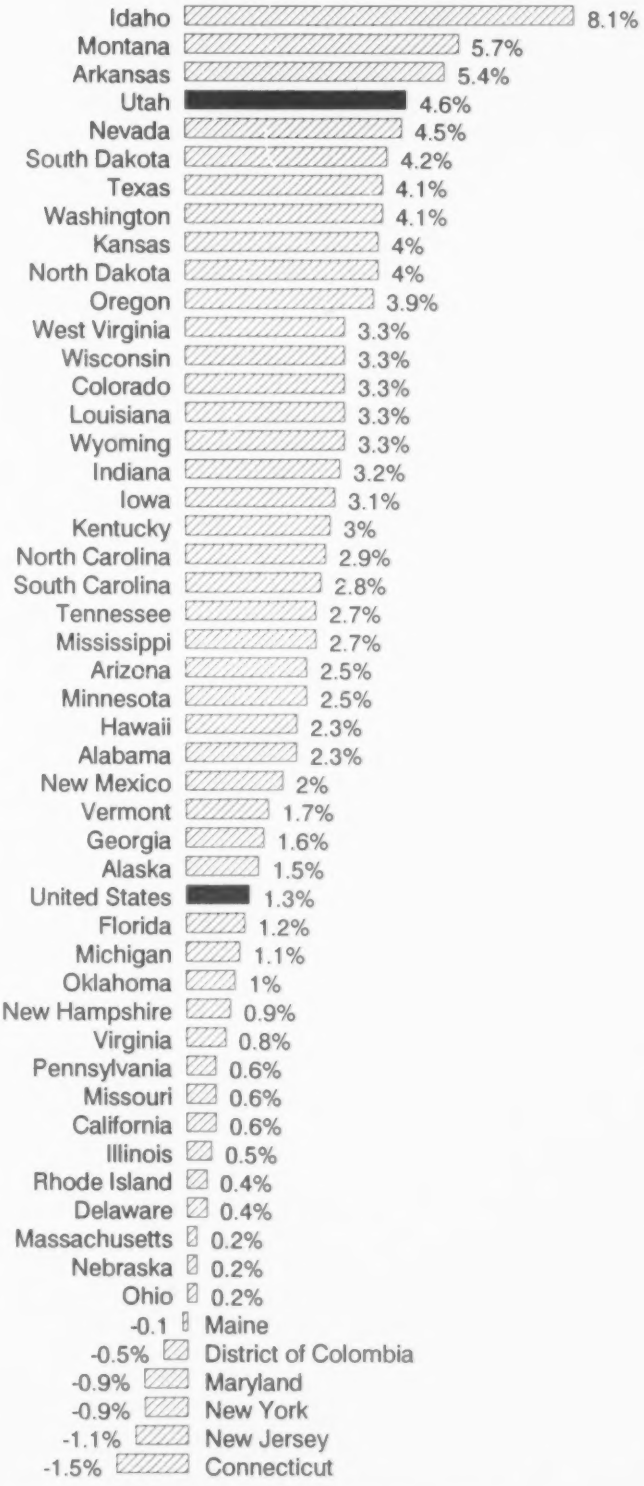
U.S. union membership, which had been declining as a percentage of employment for nearly 30 years, leveled off in 1991, according to a report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Union members accounted for 16 percent of employment—the same as in 1990. During 1991, the number of union members and the number of employed workers declined by about the same proportion.

The earlier decline in union membership as a percent of employment occurred in three stages: From the early 1960s to 1979, membership increased, but at a slower rate than overall employment growth; membership fell from 1979 to 1985 even as employment rose; and from 1985 to 1990, union membership declined more slowly while employment continued to rise.

Among major private industry groups, transportation and utilities had the highest unionization rate—31 percent. Other groups with membership proportions above the private industry average were construction, 21 percent; manufacturing 20 percent; and mining, 15 percent. The public sector had the highest unionization rate of all with union members constituting 37 percent of

Change in Office Employment January 1991-1992



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Utah Labor Market Report

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Notes

(f)—forecast.

(p)—preliminary.

(r)—revised.

Salt Lake/Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties.

Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Utah County.

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